

Appl. No. 09/662,409
Amd. Dated December 23, 2003
Reply to Office Action of November 13, 2003

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-9 are pending in the above-identified application. Claims 1-4, 8, and 9 have been rejected. Claims 5-7 were objected to.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 2-4, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being clearly anticipated by Parce et al. (U.S. Pat. 5,779,868) ("Parce"). Applicant has cancelled these claims, rendering this rejection moot.

II. Allowable Subject Matter

The pending office action states that claims 5 to 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, claims 5 and 7 have been rewritten in independent form by incorporating the limitations of claim 2 into both those claims. Even though claim 6 has not been rewritten in independent form, Applicant asserts that claim 6 is in condition for allowance. Claim 6 depends from as-amended claim 5, so claim 6 contains all of the limitations of claim 5. Therefore if as-amended claim 5 is allowable, then claim 6 should also be allowable.

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Conclusion

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant believes all the pending claims are in condition for allowance and should be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (650) 623-0737.

Respectfully submitted,



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